

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing load controlling of a Web site including a plurality of individual servers and a Network Control Scheduler (NCS), said Web site using Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP), said method comprising the steps of:

in any one server out of said plurality of individual servers:

issuing load balancing instructions to said NCS;

receiving said load balancing instructions in said NCS from said any one server; and

complying with said load balancing instructions upon receipt,

wherein the any one server out of said plurality of individual servers is adapted to issue the load balancing instructions that affect any of the plurality of individual servers.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of issuing load balancing instructions includes the step of:

passing said load balancing instructions to said NCS in a NCS-control HTTP header, said passing step further including the steps of:

including directives that must be obeyed by said NCS; and

optionally including a filter to limit a scope of application of said directives.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein said directives includes:

flow-control directives;
sharing directives; and
NCS-queuing directives.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein said flow-control directives include:

an increase-rate directive to require said NCS to increase a rate at which requests to said any one server are sent;

a decrease-rate directive to require said NCS to decrease a rate at which requests to said any one server are sent;

an increase-window directive to require said NCS to increase a number of jobs allowed to be simultaneously processed in said any one server; and

a decrease-window directive to require said NCS to decrease a number of jobs allowed to be simultaneously processed in said any one server.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein said sharing directives include:

a share directive aimed at enabling an information sharing within all members of said plurality of individual servers and said NCS; and

a clear directive aimed at clearing a previous said information sharing.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5 wherein said NCS-queuing directives include:

a lock directive aimed at locking resources identified by said filter; and
an unlock directive aimed at releasing previously locked said resources.

7. (Currently Amended) A system, in particular a Network Control Scheduler (NCS) for enhancing load controlling of a Web site including a plurality of individual servers, said Web site using Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP), comprising:

means adapted for ~~carrying out the method according to claim 6~~ receiving load balancing instructions issued in any one server out of said plurality of individual servers;

means adapted for complying with said load balancing instructions upon receipt,

wherein the means for complying is adapted to comply with load balancing instructions that affect a second server out of the plurality of individual servers.

8. (Original) In a network having a plurality of individual servers and a Network Control Scheduler (NCS) a [[A]] computer readable medium for enhancing load controlling of a Web site that uses Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP), comprising instructions for ~~carrying out the method according to claim 7~~ causing a computer system to perform the following steps:

in any one server out of said plurality of individual servers:

issuing load balancing instructions to said NCS;

receiving said load balancing instructions in said NCS from said any one server; and

complying with said load balancing instructions upon receipt.

wherein the any one server out of said plurality of individual servers is adapted to issue the load balancing instructions that affect any of the plurality of individual servers.

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Page 5 of 13